

SSI In California

People in financial need who are 65 or older or people of any age who are blind or have a disability (including children) may be eligible for monthly cash payments from the federal government. The payments are called Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

You may be eligible for SSI payments if you have little or no income and if the value of the things you own is less than \$2,000 if you are single or \$3,000 if you are married. We do not count the value of your home or your car (if it is not an expensive model). Certain other assets may not count either. Call Social Security for more information.

In addition to meeting the income limits, you must live in the U.S. or the Northern Mariana Islands **and** be in one of the following groups:

- A U.S. citizen or national;
- Lawful permanent resident with 40 work credits;
- Certain noncitizens with a military service connection, and their spouses or unmarried dependent children; or
- Certain refugees, asylees or individuals whose deportation has been withheld may be eligible for five years after the date their immigration status was granted.

Also, you must apply for any other money benefits for which you may be eligible.

Even though the Social Security Administration runs the program, SSI is not the same as Social Security. Money for SSI payments comes from the general fund of the U.S. Treasury.

The state of California adds money to the federal payment. For the convenience of SSI recipients, the state of California and the federal government have agreed to include the state share of the payments in the federal check. Therefore, SSI recipients receive one U.S. government check during the first week of each month with federal and state money included.

The back of this factsheet has a table showing the 1997 maximum monthly payment amounts for SSI recipients in different living arrangements.

Medical Assistance

If you receive SSI payments, you usually get medical assistance (Medi-Cal) automatically. A separate Medi-Cal application isn't necessary. *If you have questions about Medi-Cal, you should contact your local county welfare office.*

Food Stamps

SSI recipients in California are *not eligible* for food stamps because the state includes extra money in the amount it adds to the federal SSI payment instead of issuing food stamps.

However, you may be able to receive food stamps:

- While your SSI benefit application is pending
 - If your application for SSI benefits is denied
 - If you move to another state
- For more information about food stamps, contact your local county welfare office.

Additional State and County Programs

Additional services and special payments may be available to SSI recipients through their local county welfare offices. These include:

- Special allowance for assistance dogs for individuals who are blind or have a disability
- In-home supportive services
- Protective services

For more information on these payments and services, contact your local county welfare office.

SSI Payments

The amounts shown at the back of this factsheet include both federal and state money. Not all SSI recipients receive the maximum payment amounts. Payments may be lower if you have other income. Your Social Security office can give you more information about payment levels and how income affects them.

Additional state payments may be available to eligible aged or disabled individuals who don't live where they can cook or store food. Also, people who have adequate cooking facilities but are unable to cook for themselves may be eligible for the allowance through in-home supportive services from the county welfare department. Your Social Security office can explain these provisions to you.

For More Information

You can get recorded information about Social Security coverage 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays, by calling Social Security's toll-free number, **1-800-772-1213**. You can speak to a service representative between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days. Our lines are busiest early in the week and early in the month, so if your business can wait, it's best to call at other times. Whenever you call, have your Social Security number handy.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call our toll-free "TTY" number, 1-800-325-0778, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days.

You also can reach us on the Internet. Type <http://www.ssa.gov> to access Social Security information.

The people at Social Security can tell you what information you need to apply for SSI. Parents and guardians can apply on behalf of children under 18 who are blind or have a disability.

The Social Security Administration treats all calls confidentially—whether they're made to our toll-free numbers or to one of our local offices. We also want to ensure that you receive accurate and courteous service. That is why we have a second Social Security representative monitor some incoming and outgoing calls.

Individuals	Aged	Disabled	Blind
Independent Living	\$640.40	\$640.40	\$695.40
Non-Medical Board and Care	786.00	786.00	786.00
Independent Living, No Cooking Facilities	708.40	708.40	
Household of Another	482.50	482.50	537.50
Disabled Minor Child		547.40	
Household of Another		389.50	
Couples			
Aged and/or Disabled			
Independent Living		1,122.20	
Non-Medical Board and Care		1,572.00	
Independent Living, No Cooking Facilities		1,258.20	
Household of Another		891.43	
Blind			
Independent Living		1,269.20	
Household of Another		1,065.91	
Blind Person with Aged or Disabled Spouse			
Independent Living		1,213.20	
Household of Another		1,000.82	

